

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF ANT THRUSH FROM
NICARAGUA.

By CHARLES W. RICHMOND,
Assistant Curator of the Department of Birds.

SEVERAL SPECIMENS of an Ant Thrush of the genus *Phlegopsis* formed part of a collection made by the writer in eastern Nicaragua during the year 1892. These, when compared with Panama examples of *P. macleani*, were found to be quite aberrant in coloration, but the series at that time available in the U. S. National Museum collection was not thought sufficient to warrant their separation as a distinct species. The Museum has since received many additions to its series of neotropical birds, among them three or four examples of the Panama form of *Phlegopsis*, which prove conclusively the distinctness of the Nicaraguan bird, a description of which is presented herewith.

PHLEGOPSIS SATURATA, new species.

NICARAGUAN OCELLATED ANT THRUSH.

Type.—No. 128351, U.S.N.M.; male adult, Escondido River, 50 miles from Bluefields, Nicaragua, August 31, 1892; Charles W. Richmond, collector.

Crown and occiput brown (between clove brown and bister), somewhat lighter on forehead; nape and breast rich dark hazel, passing gradually on underparts into deep orange rufous on center of abdomen, and into mummy brown on sides of body, flanks, and thighs; lower breast, abdomen (except center), and sides of body with subterminal black disks, the feathers mostly with narrow black edgings; under tail-coverts mummy brown, tipped with deep orange rufous, with subterminal black markings. Throat, malar stripe, and sides of neck black, the latter narrowly bordered posteriorly with deep hazel, and connecting the same color of the nape with that of the breast. Back, scapulars, and wing-coverts (except primary coverts), cinnamon, with more or less circular subterminal black spots, those on the back larger than those of the lower parts; rump, upper tail-coverts and lower back mummy brown, with traces of black spots and lighter edgings to the

feathers on the two latter. Wing feathers blackish brown, pale mummy brown on outer webs, the secondaries edged on the outer webs with buff. Tail black, the outer pair of feathers narrowly tipped with white. Auricular region, lores, and supraorbital line unfeathered, except a small patch of black feathers over eye, and another lesser one on the lower eyelid. Wing, 3.65 inches; tail, 3.45; culmen, 0.83; tarsus, 1.30. "Bill, black; tarsi, feet, and claws, pinkish vinaceous; irides, reddish brown; naked skin on head, azure blue; around ears and along lower jaw, campanula blue."

This species is similar to *P. macleaniani* of Panama and Veragua, but is considerably brighter and richer in color on the underparts, back, rump, and wings. The edges of the black-spotted feathers of abdomen, under tail-coverts, back, etc., are similar in color to the surrounding parts, instead of pale, buffy white, as in *P. macleaniani*. There seems to be no difference in size between the two forms.

The series examined consists of eleven specimens, five of *P. saturata*, and six of *P. macleaniani*. The former are from Nicaragua and Costa Rica, the latter from Veragua and Panama.